

Chapter 104. Animals

Article III. Keeping Animals and Fowl; Pigeons

§ 104-32. License required to keep pigeons.

- A. No person shall keep pigeons within the limits of the City of Lowell except pursuant to a license issued by the Lowell Health and Human Services Department and in accordance with the terms and conditions of such license and the pigeon regulations set out herein.
- B. Each license granted hereunder shall contain a statement of the number and type of pigeons licensed and such conditions as may be required by the Department.
- C. A person desiring to keep pigeons shall apply for a license on an application provided by the Health Department.
 - (1) Applications for such license must include:
 - (a) A complete description of the pigeons intended to be kept, including the numbers thereof.
 - (b) The proposed method of disposal of animal wastes.
 - (c) Description of the building(s) used to house the pigeons.
 - (d) Plot plan showing the location and use of all buildings thereon; area to which the pigeons are to be restricted; the location of the pigeon waste storage and disposal areas if located on the property, and all contiguous property and buildings thereon.
 - (e) Appropriate evidence that inoculations, as required by state and federal regulations, are met.
 - (2) In the case of structures which are newly built or substantially renovated after the effective date of these regulations, the applicant shall submit a copy of the City of Lowell building permit.
- D. The fee for licenses shall be as provided in Chapter **150**, Fees, which shall be paid upon licensure.
[Amended 12-23-2008]
- E. Licenses granted hereunder shall be for a term of three years, expiring on June 30 of the third succeeding year, unless sooner revoked. Said license may be suspended or revoked by the Board of Health at any time for cause. If the license is revoked, pigeons must be removed within five days from date of notice of revocation. Failure to comply may result in the Board taking whatever action it deems necessary to ensure public health, at the owner's expense.
- F. No license shall be granted for the keeping of any animal or fowl except pigeons.
- G. Except as provided in this section, no license shall be granted except upon the Board of Health's determination that the applicant has demonstrated his/her compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal laws.

§ 104-33. Definitions.

For the purposes of this article the following definitions shall apply:

ANIMALS

Horses, ponies, goats, swine, cattle, sheep, donkeys, llamas, alpacas, mules and all other birds and mammals which are kept or harbored as domesticated animals, provided that the following shall not be considered animals: dogs, cats, rodentia up to five in number, exotic birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians.

COOP

Small structure for the keeping and housing of live pigeons.

FOWL

Chickens, pigeons, doves, capons, hens, turkeys, pheasants, guinea fowl, ducks, roosters and geese.

PERSON

Every individual, partnership, corporation, firm, association or group.

PIGEON

A member of the family Columbidae, and includes racing pigeons, fancy pigeons, and sporting pigeons as defined in this section.

A. RACING PIGEON

A pigeon which through selective breeding has developed the distinctive physical and mental characteristics as to enable it to return to its home after having been released a considerable distance therefrom and which is accepted as such by the American Racing Pigeon Union or the International Federation of Racing Pigeon Fanciers, also commonly known as "racing homer," "homing pigeon" or "carrier pigeon."

B. FANCY PIGEON

A pigeon which through past breeding has developed certain distinctive physical and performing characteristics as to be clearly identified and accepted as such by the National Pigeon Association, the American Pigeon Club or the Rare Breeds Pigeon Club. Examples: fantails, pouters and trumpeters.

C. SPORTING PIGEON

A pigeon which through selective past breeding has developed the ability to fly in a distinctive manner, such as aerial acrobatics or endurance flying. Examples: rollers and tipplers.

D. MATURE PIGEON

A pigeon aged six months or older.

RODENTERA

Include domestic rats, mice, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, chinchillas and other members of the rodentia family.

§ 104-34. General restrictions.

- A. No person shall keep animals or fowl within the City limits, except pigeons.
- B. No person shall keep pigeons in any building any part of which is used as a dwelling, including but not limited to attached garages and breezeways, etc.
- C. Dogs must be licensed according to the provisions of Lowell City ordinances and of state law (MGL c. 140, § 137). Exotic birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians may be kept as pets subject to the licensing

requirements of state law (MGL c. 131, §§ 23 and 25 and c. 131A, § 1).
[Amended 12-23-2008]

Chapter 171. Health and Sanitation

Article I. Nuisances

§ 171-11. Keeping fowl, swine or goats; slaughtering swine in streets.

No fowl, swine or goats shall be kept within the City without a license from the Board of Health, and only in such place and manner as it may direct, nor shall any person slaughter swine in the public streets of the City.

[1] *Editor's Note: See also Ch. 104, Animals, Art. II, Bees, and Art. III, Keeping animals and fowl; pigeons.*